

Larimer County Medical Reserve Corps

Larimer County Department of
Health and Environment



Developing Partnerships Using a Community Health Planning Approach

By
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MRC Project Goals

- Strengthen the community's emergency response capacity through the establishment of a corps of volunteer health professionals.
- Increase capacity to deal with emergency situations that impact community health.
- Enable health professionals (retired, employed, or students) to be trained to work effectively and safely during emergency situations.



Goals Continued.....

- Coordinate services of the MRC with other response programs of the community, county or state during an emergency.
- Provide cadres of local health professionals to assist in solving community health problems throughout the year.



The Challenge

- How to elicit support, buy-in, and advice from leaders of key organizations involved in emergency/disaster planning and response.
- How to develop key partnerships to ensure the success of the project



The Approach

- Apply a “community health planning” model strategy designed to assess needs and interests and develop support from organizations and individuals crucial in planning and implementing the project.



The Planning Model

- Identify key leaders
- Meet personally with each to discuss the project
- Gain their support and involvement
- Obtain suggestions of other key leaders to contact and involve in the project



Contacts

- Environmental Health Specialist (BT Planner and HAZMAT team member)
- Emergency/Disaster Managers for the County, Fort Collins, Loveland
- State Health Dept. Local Liaison Nurse Consultant
- American Red Cross Ex. Director
- Emergency Department Directors from local hospitals
- Ambulance Service Directors
- Colorado State University
- Poudre Fire Authority
- FirstCall
- Interfaith Council



The Result: Partnerships Created (18 people)

- Steering Committee for the MRC project
 - Larimer County EM Director (Sheriff's Ofc.)
 - American Red Cross
 - FirstCall (Volunteer Resources and Referral)
 - Poudre Valley Hospital
 - Loveland Fire/Rescue Dept.
 - TV Emergency Medical Services
 - Colorado State University (Biosafety & Env. Health)
 - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 - Fort Collins Emergency Management Director
 - McKee Med. Center Emergency Department
 - Larimer County Public Health Department
 - PVH Chaplain



Steering Committee Contributions

- Developed mission statement
- Assistance in recruitment
- Provide leadership and guidance.
- Establish networks and communications.
- Provide expert skills and knowledge.
- Determine operational policies and procedures.
- Contribute to the action plan. (ID cards, handbook for volunteers)
- Conducted trainings
- Prevent duplication of resources and energy.



More Community Partnerships

- Larimer County Immunization Coalition
- Safe Kids Coalition
- Anhauser Busch, Inc.
- PVH Aspen Club
- Volunteers of America (RSVP)
- Larimer County Medical Society
- Red Cross Mental Health Response Team



Benefits of Partnerships

- Surge capacity to respond to West Nile Virus Emergency
- Immunizations for Children
- Education and Outreach for Public Health
- Health Teaching and screening
- Excellent Training for Volunteers



Mission Statement

- Larimer County Medical Reserve Corps is a volunteer organization of health and medical professionals organized to enhance the county's emergency response capacity and trained to respond to public health emergencies, and improve the community's health through participation in selected public health programs and campaigns.



Larimer County's MRC

- Current membership - 95 volunteers including:
 - Nurses, doctors, EMTs, Social Workers, Env. Health Specialists, Health Educators, Dentists, Pharmacists, Psychologists, Phlebotomist, Optometrist, Publicist, Nurse practitioners, Veterinarians and more.



Future Plans

- Recruit more volunteers from all communities especially Loveland, Berthoud.
- Develop a more formal local training plan
Training topics
- Plan for future sustainability (corporate partners)
- Increase diversity of steering committee and volunteers



The End

